

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) to (c). Upto 15.2.1996 one case of death in police custody has been reported in Delhi in 1996.

On 2.1.1996 one Shri Indal was caught stealing a car stereo and cassettes by the car owner and his friends in the area of Police Station Mehrauli. The accomplice with Indal managed to escape with the stolen goods whereas Indal was caught and beaten up by the public. A case under section 379 IPC was registered at P.S. Mehrauli. After medical examination, when the medical officer certified Indal to be under the influence of alcohol, the accused was sent inside the lock-up in Police Station Mehrauli. After he omitted he was removed to AIIMS where he was declared brought dead on 3.1.1996.

Sub Divisional Magistrate (South) conducted the In quest Proceedings and in her interim report found the circumstantial evidence and deposition of witnesses, including that of medical officer, indicating towards a suspected death in police custody and recommended necessary legal action against four police officials and two public men.

A case FIR No. 9/96 under section 304 IPC P.S. Mehrauli. Departmental enquiry has been ordered.

Post Offices in Kanpur Dehat

414. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to open Post Offices in all the Villages of Kanpur Dehat is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Post Offices are opened under Annual Plan Scheme progressively, subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources.

[English]

Coal Pilferage

415. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has evolved any viable mechanism to curb pilferage of Coal in transit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (b). The ownership of Coal Companies ceases with the loading of coal into the railway wagons. It is the statutory responsibility of the carrier/law and order enforcing authorities to curb enroute pilferage of coal. Therefore the responsibility of preventing enroute pilferage/ theft of coal should really be discharged by those to whom it rightly belongs. However, Coal Companies extend necessary cooperation to the Railways and law enforcing agencies in curbing theft/ pilferage of coal in transit.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

416. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants for telephone connections in the country during 1995 and the number of persons out of them provided with telephone connection; and

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list as on December 31, 1995 and the time by which telephone connection will be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A total of 19,21,306 applicants register for Telephone Connections from 1.1.1995 to 31.12.1995. A total of 19,94,718 Telephone Connections have been provided during the above period.

(b) The waiting list as on 31.12.1995 is 25,09,790 Telephones to these wait listed persons are likely to be provided by 31.3.1997. National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages telephone on demand throughout the Country by 1997. For meeting this objective, private sector is also being permitted in the basic telephone service field to supplement the efforts of DOT.

Supply of sub-standard coal

417. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints from some States regarding the supply of sub-standard coal to Thermal Power Stations during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details there of State-wise;

(c) whether there has been steep decline in the power generation due to the supply of sub-standard coal to the power station; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). Thermal power plants, by and large, have been supplied adequate quantity and agreed quality of coal for which their boilers are designed. Generally the complaints regarding quality of coal being supplied to the power houses relate to the presence of extraneous material in coal as also supply of over-sized coal. These complaints are examined on merit of each case and corrective action is taken to reduce the grievances of the consumers.

In order to bring down the quality complaints steps like installation of feeder breakers, segregation of stones at the time of loading of coal, better supervision and encouraging the consumers to post their representatives at the loading point for quality loading are taken by the coal companies.

[English]

Delivery of Postal Articles

418. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Social Audit Panel made any reference to the inefficient delivery of postal articles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to streamline delivery of postal articles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Social Audit Panel of the Ministry of Communications has recommended steps to be taken to improve the postal delivery system.

(b) and (c). The main recommendations made by the Social Audit Panel and the steps taken by the Department to streamline the delivery system are given below:

(1) Improvement in Local delivery of Mails:

A separate system for Local Letters exist in all cities and Large Towns which aims at delivery of Letter Mail originating within Local limits on the next working day.

(2) Fixing realistic norms for delivery Mail:

The norms for delivery of Mail are reviewed following changes in the timings of Public transport and wherever due revised:

A Metro Channel for Pin-Coded Letter Mail serves Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore for delivery at any of them within the third working day as from the day of posting at any other of these cities. Similarly, Pin-Coded Letters between Delhi and State Capitals and vice-versa and between cities connected by air are to be delivered within 3 to 4 days. There are also tested norms for delivery of Inter-State, Intra-State and Intra-District Mails subject to satisfaction of specified conditions.

(3) Augmenting the Postal delivery Staff especially in the outlying areas of towns and cities:

To strengthen the delivery man power in Post Offices serving newly developed colonies, a regular exercise of re-deploying surplus manpower from other Post Offices is undertaken in the absence of sanction new posts due the ban currently in force.

Tariff of Cellular Phones

419. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff of phone calls made on Cellular phones are very high;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce cellular phone tariff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The Govt. fixed the ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service as given in the enclosed statement. The Service providers are permitted to charge the customers at a lower tariff as a result of competition.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.